State of Kerala, has passed a resolution in the Kerala Assembly to drop the proposal of Pamba-Achankovil-Vaippar link. The Central Government has taken note of it and has decided not to treat it as a priority link for consensus building purpose at present.

(b) An outlay of Rs. 32.44 crore has been approved for the preparation of Prefeasibility/ Feasibility/Detailed Project Reports of river link proposals under National Perspective Plan, preparation of Prefeasibility/Feasibility Reports of Intra-State links and other studies in this regard by NWDA during current year.

(c) 69 Schemes with a total cost of Rs. 163.63 crore from Orissa have been included under Flood Management Programme (FMP) for providing central assistance amounting to Rs. 122.72 crore. First installment of central assistance amounting to Rs. 45.90 crore for these 69 schemes was released during financial year 2008-09.

Further, there is a provision of Rs. 900 crore during financial year 2009-10 for the whole scheme "Flood Management Programme" for providing central assistance to all the States after approval of the proposals by the Empowered Committee on FMP under the Secretary (Expenditure), Ministry of Finance. As such, there is no provision for allocating funds on yearly basis to specific State under FMP.

Scientific survey of groundwater

885. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the scientific survey about the current stock of groundwater in this country;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether Government is aware that water insecurity has come about because of poor hydrological management — water storage, distribution, usage and conservation — as well as failure of water authorities to periodically survey and record accurately the State of the country's water-table, the extent of its usage and wastage; and

(d) if so, the steps Government has taken to overcome its shortcomings in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) to (c) As per the assessment of ground water resources carried out by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) jointly with States in 2004, out of 5723 assessment units (Blocks/ Mandals/Talukas) in the country, 839 units have been categorized as 'Over-exploited', 226 units as 'Critical' and 550 as 'Semi-critical'. CGWB regularly monitors ground water levels in the country through a network of 15640 observation wells. Further, the States also monitor the ground water levels in their respective States. The data generated through the monitoring is disseminated to the user agencies in the States for necessary action.

Time series data generated by CGWB and the States is used in assessment of replenishable ground water resources in the country and categorization of assessment units-based on decline in ground water levels and stage of ground water development. These form the basis for planning ground water development and management by the Central Government/States.

(d) The measures taken by the Government for ensuring sustained development of ground water resources in the country include:—

- Implementation of demonstrative artificial recharge projects by CGWB.
- Implementation of scheme for "Artificial Recharge of Ground Water through Dugwells" in 7 States namely, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh.
- Implementation of scheme for Repair, Renovation and Restoration of water bodies to help water conservation and ground water recharge.
- Implementation of Farmers Participatory Action Research Programme (FPARP) aimed at creating awareness about water conservation practices.
- Circulation of 'Model Bill' to enable States/Union Territories to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development.
- Setting up of Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) for the purpose of regulation of ground water management and development in the country.
- Organization of mass awareness programmes on Water Management, Rain Water Harvesting and Artificial Recharge of Ground Water.
- 18 States and 4 UTs have made rain water harvesting mandatory under building bye-laws.

Hydro projects

*886. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Tista river is changing its course after construction of several hydro projects over it;

(b) whether Government is also aware that several villages like Laltung, Chamakdangi, Dashmile, Forest Basti, Lagayat, 31 Highway and Karate are facing danger because of Tista river changing its course; and

(c) whether Government has any plan to check this type of danger?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Due to severe floods in Teesta river experienced in flood seasons of 2007 and 2008, the villages, namely, Laltung, Chamakdangi, Dashmile, Forest Basti,

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*Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.